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Public Information Office
301-457-3030/301-457-3670 (fax)
301-457-1037 (TDD)
e-mail: pio@census.gov

CB99-150

Gerry Horner
301-457-3539

Shippers Can Report Exports at No Cost Via Internet; Census Bureau Awards Contract for New System

The Commerce Department's Census Bureau will soon launch a new system enabling businesses to file export information at no cost over the Internet — part of an effort to make government more efficient and boost U.S. exports, Commerce Secretary William M. Daley announced today.

The Automated Export System (AES) is a joint venture of the Census Bureau and the U.S. Customs Service. The Internet-based system will allow exporters, freight forwarders and consolidators to file shippers' export-declaration information in an automated, cost-free way. It is expected to be in operation by Oct. 1.

"The new system will reduce the paperwork burden on the trade community, make document storage and handling less costly, improve the quality of export statistics and facilitate exporting in general," Daley said.

Flagship Customs Services, of Silver Spring, Md., has been awarded a five-year, multi-million dollar contract to design and operate the system.

More information on AES is available at the U.S. Customs' Internet site <http://www.customs.ustreas.gov/impexpo/auto_exp.htm>, the Census Bureau's Foreign Trade Division site <<http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/aes/aes.html>> or by calling 1-800-549-0595.

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